

the Senate before the Congress adjourned.

I urge the adoption of this non-controversial bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, as Congressional action is required for lands in trust to be sold and the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah has contacted us for assistance, we are supportive of authorizing the Secretary to convey these lands as directed by the Tribe. We support the Tribe's sovereign decision to sell these lands and wish them the best in further economic development.

We urge our colleagues to support H.R. 680.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 680.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### NEVADA NATIONAL FOREST LAND DISPOSAL ACT OF 2005

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 816) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to sell certain parcels of National Forest System land in Carson City and Douglas County, Nevada.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 816

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Nevada National Forest Land Disposal Act of 2005".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States owns, and the Forest Service administers, land in small and large parcels in Carson City and Douglas County, Nevada.

(2) Much of this Federal land is interspersed with or adjacent to private land, which renders the Federal land difficult, inefficient, and expensive for the Forest Service to manage and more appropriate for disposal.

(3) In order to promote responsible and orderly development in Carson City and Douglas County, Nevada, appropriate parcels of the Federal land should be sold by the Federal Government based on recommendations made by units of local government and the public.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide for the sale of certain parcels of National Forest System land in Carson City and Douglas County, Nevada.

#### SEC. 3. DISPOSAL OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS, CARSON CITY AND DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEVADA.

(a) DISPOSAL REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") shall sell any right, title, or interest of the United States in and to the following parcels of National Forest System lands in Carson City or Douglas County, Nevada:

(1) The parcel of land referred to as the "Carson Parcel", consisting of approximately 3 acres, and more particularly described as being a portion of the southeast quarter, section 31, township 15 north, range 20 east, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(2) The parcel of land referred to as the "Jacks Valley/Highway 395 Parcel", consisting of approximately 28 acres, and more particularly described as being a portion of the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter, section 6, township 14 north, range 20 east, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(3) The parcel of land referred to as the "Indian Hills Parcel", consisting of approximately 75 acres, and more particularly described as being a portion of the southwest quarter, section 18, township 14 north, range 20 east, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(4) The parcel of land referred to as the "Mountain House Area Parcel", consisting of approximately 40 acres, and more particularly described as being a portion of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter, section 12, township 10 north, range 21 east, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(5) The parcel of land referred to as the "Holbrook Junction Area Parcel", consisting of approximately 80 acres, and more particularly described as being a portion of the west half of the southwest quarter, section 7, township 10 north, range 22 east, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(6) The two parcels of land referred to as the "Topaz Lake Parcels", consisting of approximately 5 acres (approximately 2.5 acres per parcel), and more particularly described as being portions of the northwest quarter, section 29, township 10 north, range 22 east, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

(b) MODIFICATION OF DESCRIPTIONS.—The Secretary may—

(1) correct typographical or clerical errors in the descriptions of land specified in subsection (a); and

(2) for the purposes of soliciting offers for the sale of such land, modify the descriptions based on—

(A) a survey; or

(B) a determination by the Secretary that the modification is in the best interest of the public.

(c) SELECTION AND SALE.—

(1) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate the sale of land under this section with the unit of local government in which the land is located.

(2) EXISTING RIGHTS.—The sale of land under this section shall be subject to all valid existing rights, such as rights-of-way, in effect as of the date of the sale. In the case of the parcel described in subsection (a)(2), all access rights in and to United States Highway 395, together with any and all abutter's rights adjacent to the westerly right-of-way line of such highway, within the parcel shall be restricted.

(3) ZONING LAWS.—The sale of land under this section shall be in accordance with local land use planning and zoning laws and regulations.

(4) SOLICITATIONS OF OFFERS.—The Secretary shall solicit offers for the sale of land under this section, subject to any terms or

conditions that the Secretary may prescribe. The Secretary may reject any offer made under this section if the Secretary determines that the offer is not adequate or not in the public interest.

(5) METHOD OF SALE.—The Secretary shall sell the land described in subsection (a) at public auction.

(d) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—

(1) PAYMENTS AND DEPOSITS.—Of the gross proceeds from any sale of land under this section, the Secretary shall—

(A) pay five percent to the State of Nevada for use for the general education program of the State;

(B) pay five percent to the Carson Water Subconservancy District in the State;

(C) deposit 25 percent in the fund established under Public Law 90-171 (commonly known as the "Sisk Act"; 16 U.S.C. 484a); and

(D) retain and use, without further appropriation, the remaining funds for the purpose of expanding the Minden Interagency Dispatch Center in Minden, Nevada, as provided in paragraph (3).

(2) USE OF SISK ACT FUNDS.—The amounts deposited under paragraph (1)(C) shall be available to the Secretary until expended, without further appropriation, for the following purposes:

(A) Reimbursement of costs incurred by the local offices of the Forest Service in carrying out land sales under this section, except that the total amount of reimbursement may not exceed 10 percent of the total proceeds of the lands sales.

(B) The development and maintenance of parks, trails, and natural areas in Carson City, Douglas County, or Washoe County, Nevada, in accordance with a cooperative agreement entered into with the unit of local government in which the park, trail, or natural area is located.

(3) MINDEN INTERAGENCY DISPATCH CENTER.—The Minden Interagency Dispatch Center is located on land made available by the State of Nevada in Minden, Nevada, and will serve as a joint facility for the Forest Service and the Nevada Division of Forestry for the purpose of fighting wildland fires. The expansion of the center shall include living quarters and office space for the Blackmountain Hotshot Crew, a guard station for housing engines and patrol vehicles, an air traffic control tower, a training facility, and a warehouse.

(4) LIMITATION.—None of the amounts made available to the Carson Water Subconservancy District under paragraph (1)(B) shall be used to pay the costs of litigation.

(e) RELATION TO OTHER PROPERTY MANAGEMENT LAWS.—The land described in subsection (a) shall not be subject to chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code.

(f) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land described in subsection (a) is withdrawn from location, entry, and patent under the public land laws, mining laws, and mineral leasing laws, including geothermal leasing laws.

(g) REVOCATION OF PUBLIC LAND ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To facilitate the sale of parcels of land described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall revoke any public land orders in existence on the date of the enactment of this Act that withdraw the parcels from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, to the extent that the orders apply to land described in such subsection (a).

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—A revocation under paragraph (1) shall be effective on the date on which the instrument conveying the parcels of land subject to the public land order is executed.

(h) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Resources of the House of

Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate an annual report on all land sales made under this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 816.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), the author of this bill.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES), I want to thank him for his courtesy in granting me time to rise today in support of the legislation I introduced, H.R. 816, the Nevada National Forest Disposal Act.

Mr. Speaker, Nevada has a unique relationship with the Federal Government, because 91.9 percent of the land within that State is either federally owned or federally controlled. As a native and a public servant of this great State, I am committed to promoting sensible land management policies that allow for responsible economic development, while protecting our precious natural resources and scenic vistas. My bill, the Nevada National Forest Disposal Act, is a model for such development.

The bill provides for the sale of six small tracts of land at public auction for fair market value. The sale of this land will allow responsible planning and economic development in Carson City and Douglas County.

These parcels of land, Mr. Speaker, are land that are not pristine forest lands. In fact, there is barely any vegetation at all that can be found on these lots. The parcels are small tracts of land, each bordered by private lands on at least two sides, either within residential areas or next to a highway.

The Forest Service faces many challenges when it comes to managing these lots, and because of the nature of their location they are simply magnets for trash. I think we can all agree that the Forest Service should not have to divert resources away from their mission to deal with small tracts of land that often become an unfortunate dumping ground for a community.

Developing these lands, Mr. Speaker, would benefit the community by providing more economic opportunity and removing what some find to be an eye-

sore amidst commercial and residential areas, certainly not pristine forest land.

The proceeds of this land sale benefit the community, the State of Nevada and the Forest Service. Sixty-five percent of the proceeds from the land being sold will go to fund an inter-agency wildland fire suppression center. This center will help to protect the wildland-urban interface that surrounds the community. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds goes to the Forest Service to be used for development and maintenance of parks, trails and natural areas in the Carson City, Douglas County and Washoe County areas. Of the remaining 10 percent of the revenue, 5 percent will go to Nevada's general education fund and 5 percent will go to the Carson Water Subconservancy District.

Mr. Speaker, this is sound public policy. It is sound public land management policy for the Federal Government to dispose of tracts of land such as these that do not warrant Federal protection and use the revenue to manage vital areas of Federal ownership. This particular land disposal is important to the State of Nevada. It is supported by the community, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, as my distinguished colleague the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) has explained, this legislation provides for the disposal of specific forest lands in Nevada and specifies the uses of those funds from the sale of these lands.

The gentleman from California (Chairman POMBO) succeeded in moving this legislation through the House during the last Congress. We do not object to the passage of this legislation at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 816.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CREATING OFFICE OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF GOVERNMENT OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 62) to create the Office of Chief Financial Officer of the Government of the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 62

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

(a) APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor of the Virgin Islands shall appoint a Chief Financial Officer, with the advice and consent of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, from the names on the list required under section 2(d). If the Governor has nominated a person for Chief Financial Officer but the Legislature of the Virgin Islands has not confirmed a nominee within 90 days after receiving the list pursuant to section 2(d), the Governor shall appoint from such list a Chief Financial Officer on an acting basis until the Legislature consents to a Chief Financial Officer.

(2) ACTING CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.—If a Chief Financial Officer has not been appointed under paragraph (1) within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Virgin Islands Chief Financial Officer Search Commission, by majority vote, shall appoint from the names on the list submitted under section 2(d), an Acting Chief Financial Officer to serve in that capacity until a Chief Financial Officer is appointed under the first sentence of paragraph (1). In either case, if the Acting Chief Financial Officer serves in an acting capacity for 180 consecutive days, without further action the Acting Chief Financial Officer shall become the Chief Financial Officer.

(b) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon the appointment of a Chief Financial Officer under subsection (a), the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget established under the laws of the Virgin Islands shall be transferred to the Chief Financial Officer. All employees of the Office of Management and Budget become employees of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

(2) DOCUMENTS PROVIDED.—The heads of each department of the Government of the Virgin Islands, in particular the head of the Department of Finance of the Virgin Islands and the head of the Internal Revenue Bureau of the Virgin Islands shall provide all documents and information under the jurisdiction of that head that the Chief Financial Officer considers required to carry out his or her functions to the Chief Financial Officer.

(c) DUTIES OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.—The duties of the Chief Financial Officer shall include the following:

(1) Assume the functions and authority of the office of the Office of Management and Budget established under the laws of the Virgin Islands as transferred under subsection (b).

(2) Develop a report on the financial status of the Government of the Virgin Islands not later than 6 months after appointment and quarterly thereafter. Such reports shall be available to the public and shall be submitted to the Committee on Resources in the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in the Senate.

(3) Each year certify spending limits of the annual budget and whether or not the annual budget is balanced.

(4) Monitor operations of budget for compliance with spending limits, appropriations, and laws, and direct adjustments where necessary.

(5) Develop standards for financial management, including inventory and contracting, for the government of the Virgin islands in